

BEFORE
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF
SOUTH CAROLINA
DOCKET NO. 97-197-S - ORDER NO. 97-543
JUNE 26, 1997

IN RE: Application of Utilities, Inc. for Approval)	ORDER
to Transfer to the City of Columbia.)	APPROVING
)	TRANSFER

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (the Commission) on the request to approve a transfer of the Charlestowne Sewer System of Utilities, Inc. to the City of Columbia. The transfer is taking place pursuant to an Administrative Order issued by the Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC), requiring Utilities, Inc. to negotiate and tie on to the City of Columbia system pursuant to the 201-208 Plan.

The Commission's Executive Director required Utilities, Inc. to publish a Notice of Filing in one paper of general circulation one time. Utilities, Inc. furnished an affidavit that this had been done. The Notice gave a return date of June 27, 1997. Up to the date of this Order, no Petitions to Intervene nor protests have been filed.

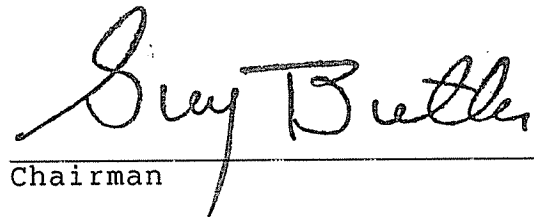
The Applicant requests that the Commission waive a hearing on the transfer of the facilities. It appears that the closing in this matter has been set for the afternoon of July 1, 1997, and immediate approval is needed so that the transfer can meet the

mandate of 201-208 Plan.

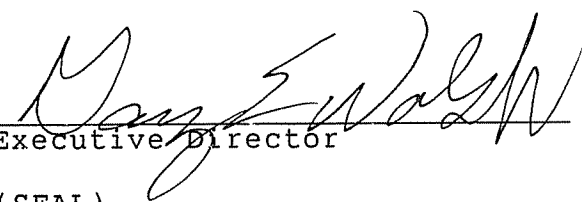
Although our Regulation 103-504 requires hearing in this matter, our Regulation 103-501 allows us to waive a regulation on the showing of specific circumstances which would make it difficult to comply with the regulation. We believe that the waiver standard has been met in this case, in that the required transfer is a regulatorily mandated one. We also note that the return date is not until June 27, 1997. We hereby approve the transfer as requested, and waive the hearing required by Regulation 103-504, subject to the condition that no timely filed intervention is received. If a timely filed intervention is received, then this matter shall become subject to hearing pursuant to the requirement of Regulation 103-504. If no timely filed intervention is received, then the waiver of hearing and approval of the transfer shall remain in full force and effect.

This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:


Chairman

ATTEST:


Deputy Executive Director

(SEAL)